

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

TRSE-00 SCA-01 JUSE-00 /063 W
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P R 292236Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5521

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 5195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, CS

SUBJECT: NEW EXTRADITION LAW PASSES FIRST DEBATE

REF: SAN JOSE 5166

1. COSTA RICA ASSEMBLY PASSED IN FIRST DEBATE EVENING
OCT. 28, WITHOUT DISCUSSION ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR, A NEW EXTRADITION
LAW TO REPLACE "VESCO" LAW OF 1974. PROPOSED LAW, WHICH IS EXPECTED
TO PASS SECOND AND THIRD READINGS WEEK OF NOV. 1, HAS BEEN DESCRIBED
TO EMBASSY AS A SOLID IMPROVEMENT OVER 1974 LAW, AND,
AS AN IMPROVED 1971 LAW.

2. PROPOSED LAW WAS NEITHER THE PREVIOUS MAJORITY PROPOSAL
NOR THE OLD MINORITY ONE (WHICH CALLED SIMPLY FOR A RETURN
TO A 1971 LAW); IT IS A NEW EFFORT INTRODUCED BY AN INDEPENDENT-
MINDED PLN DEPUTY TO WHICH A KEY OPPOSITION ANTI-VESCO LAW CRITIC
AND LAWYER (RODOLFO PIZA) HAS MADE CONTRIBUTIONS.
PROPOSED LAW RECEIVED BROAD (THOUGH NOT ALL) OPPOSITION
SUPPORT, AND, OF COURSE, SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT PARTY
PLN. VOTE WAS 36-2 WITH 19 DEPUTIES ABSENT.

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3. PIZA HAS PRIVATELY DESCRIBED LAW TO EMBOFF AS A
"RATHER GOOD ONE" - THOUGH NOT PERFECT, AND NOT EXACTLY
WHAT HE WANTED. HE STATED THAT HE DOES NOT SEE ANY
SIGNIFICANT LOOPHOLES IN IT THAT WOULD UNDULY PROTECT
VESCO.

4. EMBASSY IS ENCOURAGED BY PIZA'S DESCRIPTION OF THE
LAW BUT WILL WITHOLD ITS JUDGMENT UNTIL WE CAN TAKE
FURTHER POLITICAL AND LEGAL STANDINGS.

5. TRANSLATION OF PROPOSED LAW WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY
CABLE.
TODMAN

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